



Newsletter of the Utah State Library for the Blind and Disabled

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This newsletter is available in Braille, on cassette, or via email by contacting the library, or on the Utah State Library Division website at <http://blindlibrary.utah.gov> then click on See Note Newsletter

Digital Books Are On the Way

The Utah State Library is fortunate to be one of eight libraries for the blind and disabled that will field test digital books and digital talking book machines. As a participant in this Library of Congress prelaunch phase of conversion from cassette to digital technology, the library will receive about 500 of the new digital machines. These machines may arrive at the library as early as the beginning of May (keep your fingers crossed!).

The library will also receive a small collection of multiple copies of about 50 titles produced on the new Digital Book cartridges. Patrons who receive these machines will also receive a descriptive list of these titles to use to make their initial selections of digital books.

The new digital machines will be sent to the most active users of the library's cassette books, as well as those already on the library's waiting list. The library will review patron's files to ensure that those who receive a machine are patrons in good standing according to the library's loan policy. The library's complete loan policy can be found at the end of this newsletter.

To ensure that a digital machine is not temporarily or permanently denied them, patrons should

1. maintain current contact information with the library
2. only have one each of the library's equipment – digital machine, cassette player, radio
3. not exceed the limit of 20 books total checked out at a time
4. not have any books checked out for longer than six months.

Patrons who participate in this prelaunch phase will be required to report problems with the digital machine or books to the library by telephone or e-mail. The library will forward this information to a Library of Congress contractor responsible for assessing patron response to prelaunch books and players. Patron's contact information will be provided to this contractor for random survey purposes at the end of the test phase.

Wyoming patrons are not eligible to receive a digital machine during this test phase. If you are interested in receiving a digital machine after the test phase, please contact the local office of Wyoming Services for the Visually Impaired that provided your cassette player.

Cassette Books Still Available

The transition from cassette books to digital books will take quite some time, several years minimum. It will take some time to produce enough digital talking book machines to nationally supply those eligible to receive one.

If machines are available, patrons may have both a cassette and a digital talking book machine during the transition. New books will be produced in both digital and cassette formats for some time as well.

Cassette Books 2007 Now Available

The large print edition of Cassette Books 2007 is now available. It includes all adult, young adult, and Spanish language books on cassette produced by the Library of Congress during 2007. Titles are grouped by nonfiction subject or type of fiction. The catalog also contains a bestsellers index.

If you have not already received a copy (it is purple in color), please call the library or email the library (blind@utah.gov) to request this item.

This catalog is a compilation of the issues from 2007 of Talking Book Topics, which lists new books produced every two months. You may order this publication in large print or on cassette as mentioned above.

New Catalog for Younger Readers Now Available

The large print edition of For Younger Readers, 2006-2007 is now available. It includes all Braille and cassette books for all ages from preschool through young adult produced by the Library of Congress during 2006 and 2007. Titles are grouped by nonfiction subject or type of fiction.

If you have not already received a copy (it is blue in color), please call the library or email the library (blind@utah.gov) to request this item.

Volunteer Corner

“Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation’s compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain love for one another.” – Erma Bombeck

Calendar

May 25 - Memorial Day – Closed Monday, May 25th

July 4 - Independence Day – No closure for this holiday

July 24 - Pioneer Day – No closure for this holiday

National Volunteer Week

National Volunteer Week was in April this year. The theme this year was “Celebrating People in Action.”

In celebration of National Volunteer Week the Utah State Library for the Blind and Disabled honored the Saint George volunteers with a Service Award Luncheon at the Wingate Hotel in order to personally thank our machine repair volunteers.

The library thanked all members of the Dixie Elks Lodge for their help with the cassette player repair program. Special service awards were given to Neil Sorensen – 10 years, Joe Vasquez – 20 years, and the Dixie Elks Lodge – a special 10 year award for allowing the volunteers to use their facility.

A Volunteer Service Award Luncheon was also held at the Utah State Library to honor volunteers. The following volunteers were given 5 year service awards: Elise Arseneau, Ernie Eberhard, Amy Hayter, James Martin, Deborah McMurtrie, Donni Mitchell, Helen White, and Ann Kelly Wright. Barbara Boettcher and Stephen J. Sorenson were honored with 10 year service awards.

Thanks to all of you for the work you do as volunteers

BARD

Braille and Audio Reading Download

The pilot project phase of the NLS downloadable audiobooks and magazines service ended on April 28, 2009. It was replaced on April 30 by a permanent web site at <https://nlsbard.loc.gov>.

This is the popular service used by readers to download audio books to Victor Reader Stream players. Users who know their passwords will be able to log on to the new site. Users who rely on their browsers to remember their passwords will need new ones. All user accounts will migrate to the new system, so patrons do not need to reapply.

Here's what's new about BARD:

- The limit on downloading has been removed. During heavy demand, NLS may limit the number of simultaneous downloads for each account.
- The logon page is new.
- Search functionality is improved. Searches will yield more effective results. Use of multiple search terms will return only results containing all of the terms.
- There is a new Most Popular Books list.
- The magazine section is redesigned.

If you are a previous user of this site and can't access the new site, you may call the library for help.

If you would like to begin using this service, you will need

- A Victor Reader Stream
- A computer connected to the internet
- High speed internet service
- An active email address

You may then access an online application page from the BARD website at <https://nlsbard.loc.gov>.

LOAN POLICY

Utah State Library Program for the Blind and Disabled

The following policies govern the circulation of books and equipment to eligible blind, disabled, or reading disabled patrons who are registered with the Utah State Library Division, Program for the Blind and Disabled. Eligible patrons who borrow materials from the library accept responsibility for using materials with reasonable care, returning them to the Utah State Library according to established loan policies, and not losing or damaging them through negligence. Violation of this policy can result in suspension of some or all library services.

POLICY

Braille books, large print books, books on cassette, digital books, a cassette player, a digital book machine, and a radio will be loaned by this library to eligible registered patrons without charge. The library will keep records of all such loans.

If equipment is available from the library, patrons are entitled to borrow any or all of the following pieces of equipment: one cassette player, one digital book machine, one radio receiver (if the patron lives within established radio broadcast areas).

If equipment is not available from the library, the library will maintain waiting lists based primarily on the date equipment was requested by patrons. Legislation and Library of Congress directives require that the library give priority in the assignment of equipment to veterans of the armed services and those over 100 years of age.

Priority will also be given to the replacement of defective equipment for patrons already registered over those new to the program.

Patrons **MUST** telephone or come to the library to request a replacement for a damaged machine. A replacement cassette player or radio will be mailed right away. A replacement digital book machine will not be provided until the damaged digital book machine arrives back at the library and is checked in.

The patron should notify the library of changes of address, a desire to cancel service, or temporary or permanent transfer of service to another state.

Equipment necessary to read the recorded materials and a radio may be borrowed on extended loan for as long as the patron is using the equipment to read materials provided by the library. In the event a machine ceases to function properly or needs repair, it should be returned to the library. Under no circumstances should a borrower attempt to repair equipment or accessories provided by the library.

A patron in good standing with the library will have priority over other patrons in the assignment of equipment. A patron in good standing is in compliance with the limits on equipment stated above, in compliance with the limits on books stated below, and has not had any books checked out longer than six months.

A patron in good standing may have a maximum of 20 books total in braille, on cassette, in large print, or in digital format checked out at any one time. Once a patron reaches the maximum number of books, no additional books will be sent until books are returned. In special circumstances, a patron may request an increase in the maximum number.

Because the number of digital book titles and copies is limited, a patron in good standing may have a maximum of 3 digital books total checked out at any one time. There will be no exceptions to this maximum number of 3 digital books checked out at a time.

Books will be sent either on a calendar, replacement (turnaround) or request only basis. The loan period for books is six weeks. No fines for overdue books will be levied; however, patrons are urged to observe the loan period so books can be available for other readers.

The patron will ensure books, magazines, and equipment being returned to the library by free matter are delivered into the hands of the United States Postal Service by placing the items in a mailbox or delivering the items to the post office. Placing library materials on the doorstep of the patron's home for the mail carrier to pick up does not constitute delivery into the hands of the postal service and, if problems arise by use of this method, the patron is responsible for the lost or damaged library materials.

Patrons may not lend library books, magazines, or equipment to other persons.

In the case of repeated verbal abuse of library staff by a patron, the library may suspend service to that patron.

SUSPENSION PROCEDURES

In the event that any of these policies are violated repeatedly, the patron will be given a written warning and an opportunity to reply. If the patron does not reply or the policy violations continue, service may be suspended for a period of time. Service may be reinstated if the patron comes into compliance with policy. If, after reinstatement of service, policy violations resume, services may be suspended again.

In the event of suspension, the following steps will be taken:

1. The library will first discuss the problem noted with the patron by telephone or in person. The library will send a warning letter summarizing the discussion and the problem and provide an opportunity for the patron to reply.

2. If service abuse recurs, a second written communication will be sent to the patron. This letter will cite the earlier warning letter, list examples of subsequent abuse, give the patron an opportunity to reply by a certain date, and inform the patron of suspension of service for a stated period (up to six months). A specific date for resumption of service will be included in this letter.

3. When service is resumed, a letter will be sent to the patron notifying him/her of the resumption of service and reminding the patron that further recurrences will result in another suspension of service, as it relates to the documented abuse.

By providing information in the See Note, the Utah State Library Division, Program for the Blind and Disabled, does not endorse any product, service, organization, or company mentioned herein.